

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press, the rubber cylinder sleeve ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

an inner carrier sleeve which is expandable outwardly by an application of compressed air; and

a single rubber layer ~~disposed on~~ having an inner surface bonded to the inner carrier sleeve and having an exposed outer surface for contacting a printing plate, said ~~covering~~ layer containing, at a distance from the outer surface, ~~at least one of~~

a plurality of compressible elements for increasing the relative compressibility K of the single rubber layer, and

a plurality of filaments for increasing the stiffness S of the single rubber layer.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1,

wherein the compressible elements are uniformly distributed in the single rubber layer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1,

wherein the compressible elements vary in ~~number in at least one of an axial direction and~~ density in a radial direction of the sleeve.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1 wherein the filaments for increasing stiffness are distributed uniformly in the single rubber layer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1,

wherein the filaments for increasing stiffness vary in density in ~~at least one of an axial direction and~~ a radial direction of the sleeve.

Claim 6 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the compressible elements are air pockets.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the compressible elements are compressible fibers.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the single rubber layer is endless.

Claim 9 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the single rubber layer includes a joint.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the single rubber layer includes a gap.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1 wherein the single rubber layer is adhesively bonded to the inner carrier sleeve.

Claim 12 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the single rubber layer is vulcanized to the inner carrier sleeve.

Claims 13-14 (previously cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): The rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press of claim 1, wherein the compressible elements are disposed in the single rubber layer so that the relative compressibility  $K$  of the single rubber layer increases continuously from the outer surface to the inner surface, and the filaments are disposed in the single rubber layer so that the stiffness  $S$  of the single rubber layer increases continuously from the inner surface to the outer surface.

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**Amdt. dated March 23, 2004**  
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Claims 16-18 (previous cancelled)